



## News From Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis 32<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District of California

1725 Longworth HOB | Washington, DC 20515 -- 202.225.5464 -- 202.225.5467 f.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Edith Robles

July 5, 2005

(202) 225-2167

### **SOLIS PRESENTS \$500,000 FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS**

**Project will boost employment, & ease traffic congestion**

**EL MONTE, CA-** Today, Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (CA-32) presented a \$500,000 check to the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink) for safety upgrades at the Covina Metrolink Station on the San Bernadino Line. Solis secured the grant through the Omnibus Appropriations bill for the Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108-447).

“As our community relies upon public transportation more and more, we need to ensure that we have adequate safety measures in place to provide easy, accessible and safe travel for both commuters and pedestrians. Besides generating new jobs, this project brings much needed economic benefits to our area,” said Congresswoman Solis.

The \$500,000 will be used to build an underground pedestrian crossing connecting the platforms on the east end of the Covina Station, which will move people away from the potential dangers of the electrically active rail line. In addition to increasing commuter safety, traffic in local community arterials will be reduced. The prevention of unsafe railroad crossing will not only decrease pedestrian deaths, but also reduce the risk of train collisions. The Covina Metrolink is the most highly utilized station on the San Bernadino line, which provides easy access to hospitals, various businesses, and leisure activities.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, California is number one for highway grade crossing fatalities. Since 1995, there have been 14 incidents of pedestrian injury in Covina, two of which were fatal. The U.S. Department of Transportation estimates that for every dollar invested in transportation, \$5.77 is gained in economic returns, primarily through job creation. This project will generate almost \$13 million in economic benefits from the jobs it will create. When full funding is received and the design is completed, it will take approximately eight months to complete the project.

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